



COUNCIL DISTRICT

FRYE LIGHTS

MARCH 2009

VOLUME VII ISSUE III



Serving

Bay Ho

Bay Park

Birdland

De Anza

Clairemont

Kearny Mesa

Linda Vista

Mission Valley

Mission Bay Park

Mission Village

Morena

Serra Mesa

Fighting Blight

Code inspectors carry on despite staff cuts

The rusty one-man helicopter frame in the front yard, obscured by a thick curtain of trees, offers the first clue that this Linda Vista home is probably out of compliance with San Diego zoning ordinances for a single-family neighborhood.

The driveway is taken up by a hulking motor home that looks as though it hasn't moved in months. Behind the rickety fence is a back yard full of dismantled carcasses of vintage cars and motorcycles, some more than 80 years old. A heap of rotting tires is piled by a tin-roofed shed filled with still more car and engine parts.

Welcome to the world of Land Development Investigator Eric Picou.

Picou has worked 17 years for the City, the last nine as one of 13 "LDIs," as they call themselves, in San Diego's Neighborhood Code Compliance Department. Unlike code compliance officers, who deal with annoyances such as noise abatement, land development investigators handle zoning violations on private property.

Picou spends about half of his work hours in his red Chevrolet, following up on violation notices he's written and looking for new ones.

This late February morning has brought him back to the Fulton Street home of James Corvinus, an 86-year-old auto buff who moved into this working-class neighborhood 56 years ago and, with his late wife, raised two children here.

This is Picou's fifth visit in two years to Corvinus' place, and – believe it or not, he says – as bad as it looks now, Corvinus appears to be



Auto buff James Corvinus (right) tells Picou about the dismantled cars and motorcycles in his back yard.

making real progress cleaning it up. "A year ago, you couldn't walk back here," Picou says.

Corvinus explains he's been in contact with an auto museum that might haul off what's left of some of his classics, like the 1923 Model T or the 1921 Studebaker.

"I can tell you a history of all the cars," he says. "I moved in here in 1953, and I brought three cars with me. I've been here ever since."



Inspector Eric Picou photographs a zoning code violation at a Linda Vista home

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Inspectors lead fight against blight

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Picou commends the homeowner for his efforts but explains that he'll be getting a formal notice in the mail outlining what he'll have to have done by when.

Then it's off to check on other violations Picou has written up in this part of Linda Vista – the brick wall built too close to the sidewalk; the backyard room addition lacking proper permits; the construction trailer parked in the front yard.

Picou makes an average of 20 to 25 property inspections a week. At any given time, he's juggling anywhere from 80 to 150 active cases.

"I deal with blight – what your property looks like, and whether it's legal," he says.

Picou is one of five land development inspectors whose positions are funded by federal Community Development Block Grants, which means they must focus primarily on census tracts designated as low-income by the U.S. government.

Such funding can vary year to year, and like the rest of the Neighborhood Code staff, Picou knows no position is guaranteed – especially in these times of budget cutbacks.

In January, his department lost two of the four Citywide code compliance officers it had. Now one officer is handling all of the even-numbered Council districts – Two, Four, Six and Eight – while the other covers the four odd-numbered districts.

Supervisor Ida Ford acknowledges that more cuts could loom for her department — like all others in the City — in the upcoming budget for the next fiscal year. Meanwhile, Neighborhood Code Compliance continues to get an average of 40 to 65 calls a day from residents reporting violations.

"The biggest difference (staff reductions make) is now it takes us longer to get to those calls," Ford said. "We just do the best we can."

To report a violation or learn more about Neighborhood Code Compliance, visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/nccd/> or call (619) 236-5500



Inspector Eric Picou (left) tells homeowner James Corvinus what he must do to comply with City zoning ordinances.

George "King" Stahlman, 1923-2009, will be remembered and missed



Donna and "The King"

George "King" Stahlman was born on June 26, 1923 in Glendale, California and graduated from Hollywood High School in 1941. He joined the Navy at age 17 and served on the USS Cushing, a destroyer sunk in the 1942 Battle of Guadalcanal. After 10 hours in the water with sharks, he was rescued and taken to Guadalcanal, where he contracted malaria. He received a Purple Heart for his service in 1944.

Mr. Stahlman started his bail bond career in 1947. Known as "The King" for holding the oldest bail bond license in the state, he operated in San Diego since 1952. He ran for mayor in 1967, finishing far behind the front-runners but enhancing his public profile.

Known for his creative marketing, Mr. Stahlman's mantra was, "Early to bed, early to rise, work like hell, and advertise." Also known for his generous and caring heart, Mr. Stahlman not only helped those who needed his bail bond services, but also would send checks to families in need whose stories he had seen on the news.

On September 12, 2008, Councilmember Frye presented him with a City Council resolution proclaiming George "King" Stahlman Day in the City of San Diego. Although his health was faltering, he was still incredibly sharp and full of love and humor.

He died of natural causes at age 85 on Friday, February 13, 2009, at his Del Cerro home. He will be greatly missed by Frye and many others. No public services are planned.



A short walk for a big endeavor

5K event to benefit SD Center for Children



Youths at the San Diego Center for Children get personal attention from teachers and counselors.

programs in a highly structured setting for children, adolescents and teens who have acute psychiatric and behavioral needs.

Many of the children have behavioral, emotional or learning difficulties; some have also been diagnosed with mental afflictions such as bipolar or attention-deficit disorders.

Offering individual, group and family therapy, the Center strives to return children to traditional academic settings, said Kevin Robertson, marketing manager for the San Diego Center for Children. It is the oldest accredited non-profit in San Diego, he added.

To learn more or to register for the fundraising walk, visit www.centerforchildren.org and click the “News & Events” link.

Here’s a great two-fer: Get some exercise at Mission Bay on a spring day and give a helping hand to troubled youngsters in the process.

The San Diego Center for Children, which has been working for more than 120 years with children and adolescents who have been abused and neglected, is staging its “Walk for Kids” fundraiser on March 21.

The event will be held at De Anza Cove in Mission Bay. It consists of a 5km (3.1-mile) walk at your own pace, taking walkers south along the shoreline of east Mission Bay to the turn-around point at Tecolote Shores North (just south of the Hilton Hotel). From Tecolote Shores, walkers return to De Anza cove along the same path for more fun and festivities.

Registration for the 9 a.m. walk begins at 7:30 a.m.

Located near Mesa College, the Center offers residential



Walkers — and at least one furry mascot — happily took part in last year’s event to support the Center.

Frye salutes Patricia Hinkley, Clairemont leader and advocate



Patricia Hinkley (left) got a proclamation and a heartfelt “Thank You!” from Councilmember Frye and staff Representative Keith Corry at last month’s Clairemont Town Council meeting.

Councilmember Frye honored former Clairemont Town Council President Patricia Hinkley with an official proclamation declaring February 6, 2009, “Patricia Hinkley Day” in the City of San Diego.

Patricia, a dedicated advocate for the Clairemont community, stepped down from the Town Council in January. Having served as Council President for three years and on the group’s Executive Board for six, Patricia exemplifies the spirit of community involvement.

She brought a passion for Clairemont to her leadership position, and worked hard to inform and involve residents of the District Six community.

One of Patricia’s first concerns as Town Council President was what had become a steady decline in the group’s meeting attendance. By the end of her term, she had helped to double the turnout selecting and making arrangements for interesting and informative guest speakers.

Among her other accomplishments, Patricia served as Editor of the Clairemont Town Council Newsletter and as a member of Northern Division’s Police Advisory Board. She arranged for Mayor Sanders to address the Town Council’s general membership — the first such mayoral address ever for the group — and moderated two panel debates among San Diego mayoral and City Attorney candidates. She was also instrumental in publicly promoting the Clairemont Town Council’s largest fundraiser, *The Clairemont Garden Tour*. In its last two years, she increased the tour’s attendance so much that tickets for it were sold out.

Councilmember Frye and her staff thank Patricia for her tireless commitment and many important contributions to the Clairemont Town Council and the Clairemont community.



Connect with nature: Take a hike



Getting outdoors is a great way to learn about your community, and it also offers an array of benefits. For example, outdoor recreating is:

- **Good for the mind.** Fresh air and natural objects are linked with reducing stress.
- **Good for the body.** This is a great way to get your cardiovascular fitness.
- **Free.** Open spaces don't typically have an admission fee and offer a range of activities to entertain your family -- from bike riding to learning about birds and plants.

To get your family started on the right foot, make sure you bring the following items in your daypack:

- Drinking water
- Extra clothing layers
- Sunglasses
- First-aid kit
- Whistle
- Lunch or snacks
- Map and compass
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Headlamp or flashlight

DISTRICT 6 HIGHLIGHT: TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK & NATURE CENTER

Tecolote Canyon Natural Park & Nature Center offers guests a variety of fun programs and recreational opportunities. The Canyon has more than six miles of trails that can be enjoyed for walking, jogging and mountain biking. Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) offers a free *Passport to Adventure* program to encourage hiking and appreciation of the outdoors. Additional information is available at <http://www.rei.com/features/kidsPassport.html>.

Directions to Tecolote Canyon Natural Park & Nature Center: *The start of the canyon is a mile north of the San Diego River and is crossed by Interstate 5 at the intersection with Tecolote Road. Its northern tip nearly reaches Clairemont Mesa Boulevard at the North Clairemont Recreation Center. Genesee Avenue forms the Tecolote Canyon Natural Park eastern boundary. The western park boundary is the top of the steep slope parallel to Clairemont Drive and Cowley Way and the mouth of the canyon at the Tecolote Recreation Center.*

— Contributed by Myrian Solis Coronel, community relations representative
Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)

Free fun and learning at Mission Valley Branch Library

Yoga Classes for Little Ones

March 2 and 16; ages 2-3, 1:15-1:45 p.m.; ages 4-5, 1:50-2:30 p.m. Yoga teaches kids self-control, patience and self-confidence in a fun and playful environment. No sign-up necessary.

Debt Relief Seminar

March 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Attorney Larissa Lazarus provides ins and outs on debt and personal finances.

Weight Loss Support Group

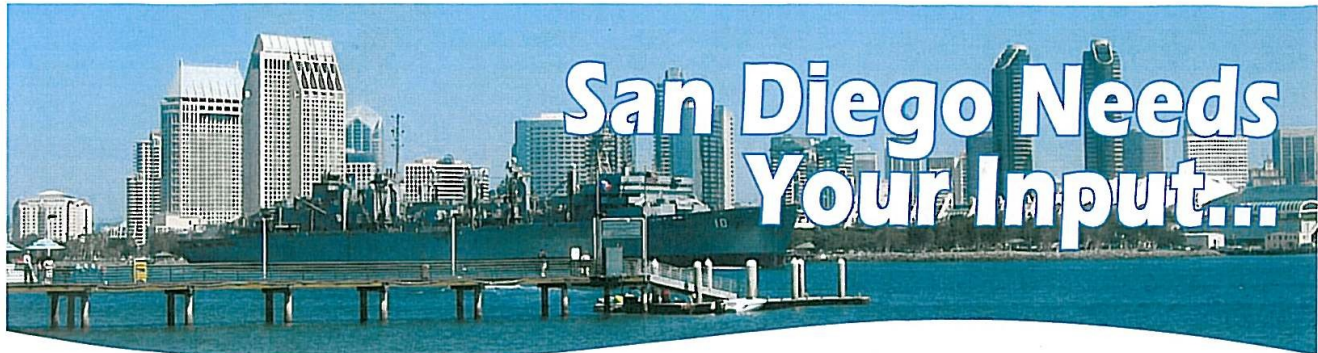
March 9 and 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Led by Veronica Hill, certified personal trainer and nutritional counselor.

Storytimes for Children

Toddler Art & Music Class: 2nd and 4th Mondays of month (March 9, 23), 3:30 p.m.
Baby-Toddler Time (infants to age 2): Tuesdays (March 3, 10, 17, 24), 10:30 a.m.
Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5): Thursdays (March 5, 12, 19, 26), 10:30 a.m.
Babysigns Storytime (infants to age 2): 2nd Thursday of month (March 12), 3:30 p.m.

Book Club

March 16, 6:30 p.m. A discussion of "A Passage to India" by E.M. Forster. New members always welcome! Copies of book are available at the library circulation counter (while supplies last).



...to identify housing and community development needs in your neighborhood.

The City of San Diego and the San Diego Housing Commission need your input about how to spend the federal housing and community development funds they will receive during the next five years (2010-2014). Activities must generally benefit low and moderate income persons. The City is starting its Consolidated Plan, which will determine how the federal funds will be spent. Citizen participation is a vital step in determining the City's needs and priorities.

What do we want to know?

- What do you consider to be the City's most critical housing needs?
- What are the City's most critical community development needs?
- What can the City do to improve housing opportunities and community development?

Stakeholders are invited to attend one of the following meetings to give us input into the City's Consolidated Plan:

Date: Tuesday March 10, 2009

Time: 7:30am – 10:30am

Location: San Diego Housing Commission
1122 Broadway, Suite 300
San Diego, CA 92101

Date: Wednesday March 11, 2009

Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: War Memorial Building
in Balboa Park
3325 Zoo Drive
San Diego, CA 92101

Meetings will begin with an overview of the Consolidated Plan and discussion of needs, then will switch to an open house format. Please stop by at any time.

Other questions or needs?

- All locations are accessible to persons with physical disabilities.
- A sign language interpreter or CART will be provided upon request for any meeting with five business day's notice.
- Spanish translation will be available.
- If you need to make arrangements for meeting accessibility or child care, or for more information about the Consolidated Plan process, please contact:

Victoria Joes
Program Analyst
San Diego Housing Commission
1122 Broadway, Suite 300
619-578-7542
victoriaj@sdhc.org





Clean out that hefty junk and heave it away — for free

Industrial-size bins available at Serra Mesa drop-off event

Got disposables too big for the trash bin? Save yourself a haul to the landfill. San Diego's Environmental Services Department is hosting a free drop-off event 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 28 at Serra Mesa's Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Drive. Several 40-cubic-yard bins will be available for large recyclable and non-recyclable waste.

Some items **will not** be accepted, including:

- Light bulbs and incandescent tubes.
- Dirt, construction or demolition rubble.
- Hazardous wastes (paint, motor oil, batteries, etc.)
- Tires

Green waste will be accepted, as long as it is bundled, tied and does not exceed 50 pounds or 6 feet in length. Wood and yard trimmings are recyclable, but palm fronds are not, so please do not bundle them together.

For more information about proper disposal of unacceptable items or other questions, visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/geninfo/cleanup.shtml> or call (858) 694-7000.

Volunteer opportunities abound throughout City

With tough economic times zapping the city's budget, volunteers are more important than ever to help close the financial gap.

From police and parks to libraries, the City Attorney's Office and the Family Justice Center, the City has myriad opportunities for citizens to step up and better their community through volunteering.

The easiest way to get involved is to go the City's Web site, www.sandiego.gov, and type "volunteer" into the search box. The specific link to the City's volunteer program site is: www.sandiego.gov/volunteer-program/opportunities/index.shtml.

Councilmember Frye's Office has put together a packet providing information on the City's many volunteer programs. If you'd like a copy, simply send us an email — dfrye@sandiego.gov — or call us at (619) 236-6616.



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

34th Annual




Senior Citizen

Thursday, March 19, 2009
9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

War Memorial Building
3325 Zoo Drive
Balboa Park, San Diego

Be a part of our audience....

Admission is FREE!



Thank you to our official
Senior Talent Show Sponsor!

Stay for lunch and enjoy the afternoon entertainment!

To reserve a \$3.00 lunch ticket, call (619) 236-6905.

Lunch is \$5.00 at the door, while supplies last.

Commemorative video tape of the show will be available
for \$20. Orders will be taken at the Talent Show.

For an application to perform, call (619) 236-6905.

AS A RECIPIENT OF FEDERAL FUNDS, THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO CANNOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANYONE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, GENDER, RELIGIOUS CREED, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, ANCESTRY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY, MEDICAL CONDITION (INCLUDING HIV, AIDS & AIDS-RELATED COMPLEX). IF ANYONE BELIEVES HE OR SHE HAS BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, HE OR SHE MAY FILE A COMPLAINT ALLEGING THE DISCRIMINATION WITH EITHER THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT (CONTACT DISTRICT MANAGER (619) 525-8247) OR THE OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240. THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS UPON REQUEST. PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

"We enrich lives through quality parks and programs"



Important Phone Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles	858-495-7856
Animal Regulation	619-236-4250
Beach & Bay Advisory	619-338-2073
Birth and Death Records	619-237-0502
Brush Abatement	619-533-4444
Building Permits	619-446-5000
Buses/MTS Access	619-233-3004
Canyon Watchers Program	858-292-6484
City Council Docket Info	619-533-4000
City Directory	619-236-5555
Code Violations	619-236-5500
Curb Maintenance	619-527-7500
Dead Animal Removal	858-694-7000
Dog Licenses	619-767-2675
Fire Stations	619-533-4300
Graffiti	619-525-8522
Hazardous Materials Hotline	858-694-7000
Housing Commission	619-231-9400
Humane Society	619-299-7012
Libraries	
Balboa	858-573-1390
Clairemont	858-581-9935
Linda Vista	858-573-1399
Mission Valley	858-573-5000
North Clairemont	858-581-9931
Serra Mesa	858-573-1396
Noise Regulation	619-236-5500
Office of Small Business	619-685-1390
Park and Recreation	619-525-8219
Parking Citations	619-236-7145
Police: Non-Emergency	619-531-2000
Pot Hole Hotline	619-527-7500
Recreation Centers	
Kearny Mesa	858-573-1387
Linda Vista	858-573-1392
North Clairemont	858-581-9926
Serra Mesa	858-573-1408
South Clairemont	858-581-9924
Tecolote	858-581-9933
Recycling Hotline	858-694-7000
Senior Citizens Services	619-236-6905
Serra Mesa Community Connection	858-565-2473
Sewer Repair/Spills	619-515-3525
Sidewalk Maintenance	619-527-7500
Social Services Information	211
Stormwater Pollution Hotline	619-235-1000
Street Lights	619-527-7500
Street Sweeping	619-527-7500
Traffic Control	619-533-3126
Tree Maintenance	619-527-7500
Waste Reduction & Disposal	858-492-5010
Water Emergency	619-515-3525
Water Utilities	619-515-3500
Zoning Regulation Information	619-236-5555

District Six Community Meetings

Balboa Avenue Citizens Advisory Committee

Place: To be announced

When: 4th Wednesday/Month (may vary)

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Clairemont Town Council

Place: Clairemont High School Cafeteria

4150 Ute Drive

When: 1st Thursday/Month

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Clairemont Mesa Planning Committee

Place: LiveWell San Diego (formerly Clairemont

Senior Friendship Center)

4425 Bannock Ave.

When: 3rd Tuesday/Month

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Kearny Mesa Planning Group

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library

9005 Aero Drive

When: 3rd Wednesday/Month

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Linda Vista Town Council

Place: Baha'i Center

6545 Alcala Knolls Drive

When: 3rd Thursday/Month

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Linda Vista Planning Group

Place: Linda Vista Library

2160 Ulric Street

When: 4th Monday/Month

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Mission Bay Park Committee

Place: Rotating Venue

When: 1st Tuesday/Month

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Mission Valley Community Council

Place: Mission Valley Library

2123 Fenton Parkway

When: 3rd Monday/Odd Months

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Mission Valley Planning Group

Place: Mission Valley Library

2123 Fenton Parkway

When: 1st Wednesday/Month

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Serra Mesa Community Council

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library

9005 Aero Drive

When: 4th Wednesday/Month

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Serra Mesa Planning Group

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library

9005 Aero Drive

When: 3rd Thursday/Month

Time: 7:00 p.m.



Councilmember Donna Frye
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FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



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Web Site:

www.sandiego.gov/cd6

Register to receive updates & event information from Councilmember Frye
by signing up in the "Frye Lights" box at www.sandiego.gov/cd6!